



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AN: D730062-0630

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15 S
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DOD-00 EB-11 PRS-01 RSR-01

OMB-01 /105 W

094401

P R 150900Z JUL 73
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0457
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT CAIRO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/INF	
REVIEWED BY <u>R.L. Lowell, J2</u>	DATE <u>4/30/82</u>
<u>Classification Extended</u>	
REC ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE <u>QADR</u>	
TS AUTH. <u>J. Burke</u>	REASON(S) <u>CSC Memo</u>
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	<u>5/13/83</u>
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐	
RELEASE DENIED ☒ IN PART	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS <u>PLA3A5A9</u>	

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0403

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGSY PINS IZ
SUBJ: POST-COUP ASSESSMENT
REF: BAGHDAD 0393, 0394

1. SUMMARY: EVENTS OF PAST WEEK APPEAR TO JUSTIFY CONCLUSION THAT POSITION OF BAKR AND SADDAM-HUSSEIN IS STRONGER, BUT BAAATH PARTY WEAKENED. PURGE UNDERWAY WITHIN PARTY AND PROBABLY SECURITY FORCES. ARMY APPARENTLY UNDER CONTROL. REGIME CONTINUING TO PURSUE HIGHLY NATIONALIST POLICIES AND INDICATES DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH WEST, PERHAPS EVEN U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. SENTENCING OF ABDUL-KHALIQ AL-SAMMARIE TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND EXECUTION OF MOHAMMED FADHEL, MEMBER OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP
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RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTY CONTROL OVER ARMY, SEEM TO HAVE RESULTED IN UNCHALLENGED LEADERSHIP OF BAKR/SADDAM COMBINATION. MOHAMMED FADHEL NOT BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD PERSONAL FOLLOWING. SAMMARIE, HOWEVER, HAD FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT BAATH. HE DROVE OWN CAR, DRESSED SIMPLY, WAS CRITICAL OF BAATHISTS WHO

DEVIATED FROM PURE BAATHISM AS INTERPRETED BY HIMSELF. REAL EXTENT OF SAMMARIE'S INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN. ACCORDING TO "HUNDREDS OF ARRESTS" HAVE TAKEN PLACE AMONG PARTY MEMBERS CONNECTED WITH SAMMARIE. SHAKE UP IN SECURITY FORCES RESULTING IN ARRESTS, DISMISSALS, AND TRANSFERS. NO OTHER LEADERS YET DISCREDITED. LABOR LEADER MOHAMAD AYESH INTERROGATED, THEN RELEASED.

3. STATEMENT IN OFFICIAL RELEASE THAT PLOT BEGAN SIX MONTHS AGO PLACES IT IN CRUCIAL STAGE OF IPC NEGOTIATIONS. BELIEVES THAT SAMMARIE'S OPEN OPPOSITION TO SADDAM DATES FROM THIS TIME. NEGOTIATORS HAD REACHED HIGHLY FAVORABLE AGREEMENT JUST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS AND THEN GOI HAD INEXPLICABLY BACKED OFF.

SAMMARIE WAS SINGLED OUT AT THIS TIME AS ONLY BAATH LEADER WHO PUBLICLY OPPOSED PARTICIPATION AND AS PROBABLE LEADER OF "LEFTIST" ELEMENTS (BAGHDAD 0002 OF JAN 1).

4. SINCE COUP ATTEMPT REGIME HAS PURSUED STRONGLY NATIONALIST POLICIES OF RECENT MONTHS AND TAKEN OTHER MEASURES WHICH SEEM TO DEMONSTRATE THAT BAKR AND SADDAM IN FULL CONTROL. ALL RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL, WITH EXCEPTION OF IRAN, WERE REMOVED ON JULY 10. ON JULY 11 SADDAM RECEIVED CORRESPONDENTS OF NEW YORK TIMES, LE MONDE AND LONDON OBSERVER FOR OVER FOUR HOURS. HE INDICATED DESIRE FOR EARLY RAPPROCHEMENT WITH UK AND TO LESSER EXTENT WITH U.S. HE STRESSED THAT REGIME WOULD DEMOCRATIZE ITSELF TO ENSURE GREATER PARTICIPATION. AT END OF INTERVIEW, HE SPENT HOUR ASKING JOURNALISTS QUESTIONS ON SUCH TOPICS AS IRAQ'S IMAGE IN WEST. ON JULY 11 GOI SIGNED 20 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT WITH JAPANESE FIRM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MICROWAVE NETWORK. PURCHASE OF EIGHT NEW A/C ANNOUNCED JULY 10 WHICH PRESUMABLY INCLUDING FIVE FOEINGS VALUED AT 55 MILLION DOLLARS. VICE PRESIDENT OF INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS SPENT JULY 12-14 HERE AT INVITATION OF MINISTRY

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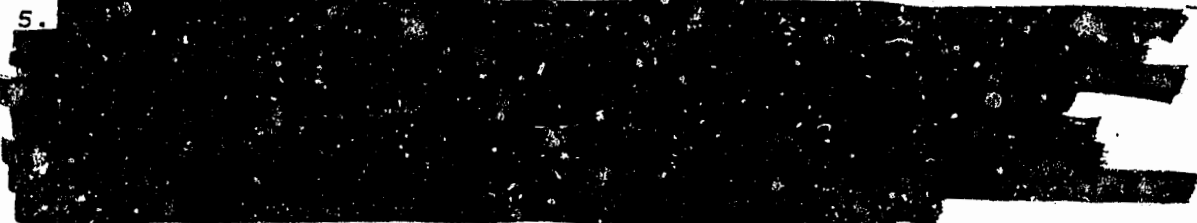
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OF PLANNING, WHICH WANTS INTER-CONTINENTAL TO BUILD HOTEL IN BASRA.

5.



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6. ALTHOUGH RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES REMAIN CORRECT, COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS HAVE SHOWN SOME CONSTERNATION OVER DISAPPEARANCE OF SAMMARIE. COMMUNIST REPRESENTATION AT JULY 14-17 CELEBRATIONS SEEMS LOW LEVEL AND THEY ARE RECEIVING LITTLE ATTENTION IN PRESS. SOVIET REP EXPECTED TO BE R. RASHIDOV, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF POLITBURO FROM UZBEKISTAN, BUT AS OF JULY 15 NO DEL FROM USSR HAD APPEARED.

7. COMMENT: IF ABOVE TRENDS CONTINUE IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES TAKE ACTIONS TO SHOW THAT SUCH POLICIES ARE IN IRAQ'S BEST INTERESTS.



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